

Washington, DC – On Thursday, Rep. Steve Israel (D–Huntington) and Asharoken Mayor Patricia Irving announced that the Army Corps of Engineers had approved plans to repair the seawall protecting Asharoken Avenue. The seawall suffered substantial damage during the March storms.

“Last month as storms were ransacking Long Island, I got a call from Mayor Irving telling me that Asharoken needed help. The seawall had been badly damaged and Asharoken Avenue was impassable, leaving families stranded in Eaton’s Neck. Today we received good news from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps has approved plans to repair the Asharoken seawall and the cost of the repairs will be 100 percent federally funded,” said Rep. Israel.

“This emergency protection project for Asharoken is sorely needed for the residents of this community and I am glad we were able to get it expedited. I commend the Corps for heeding our call on this project, but we still need all hands on deck to finish the long-term Army Corps Asharoken project which Congress has authorized. I will continue to work with Rep. Israel and the Corps to provide Asharoken residents the protection they need,” said Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.).

Mayor Irving stated that “I am both thrilled and thankful that the US Army Corps of Engineers expedited this project. Asharoken Avenue remains vulnerable and is subject to further closures until these repairs are completed. The residents of Asharoken and Eaton’s Neck are grateful that Steve Israel delivered on his promise to get the Army Corps to fast-track this project. I look forward to continue working with the Army Corps on a permanent solution for the protection of Asharoken Avenue.”

“I’m very pleased with the speed in which Headquarters USACE approved the Asharoken seawall report,” said Col. John R. Boulé, commander, New York District, US Army Corps of Engineers. “We will aggressively move forward to meet all milestones. I would also like to thank Senator Schumer, Rep. Israel and Mayor Irving for their support and look forward to continuing our great partnership in providing beneficial solutions for the residents of Asharoken and Eaton’s Neck.”

The Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters approved \$2.7 million for this planned project. The project is scheduled to open for bids on June 8, 2010, begin repairs on August 2, 2010 and be completed by February 1, 2011.

Rep. Israel has previously secured federal funds for seawall improvements. For 2010, Rep. Israel secured \$121,000 in federal funding for improvements to the Asharoken seawall. For 2009, Rep. Israel secured \$96,000 in federal funding for storm damage reduction.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.